

Drought Permit No.

DP2025-NE/027/0020/031

Thruscross Reservoir

Please quote the reference number in all correspondence



Drought Permit

Section 79A Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency ("the Agency") grants this drought permit to:

Yorkshire Water Services Limited ("the Water Company")

Western House
Halifax Road
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD6 2SZ

Company registration number 02366682

The Water Company is authorised by licence serial number NE/027/0020/031 dated 1 February 2024 ("the Licence") to impound water and is required to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Licence. This drought permit suspends and/or modifies the provisions of the Licence to the extent set out in the Schedule of Conditions.

This drought permit commences from the effective date shown below and shall remain in force until the date of expiry shown below.

All other provisions of the Licence remain in full force and effect.

Signed
Mike Dugher
Area Director

Environment Agency
Lateral House
8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

Date of issue.....10 October 2025

Date effective.....10 October 2025

Date of expiry.....10 April 2026

Note: References to "the Agency" are to the Environment Agency or any successor body.

SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

1. COMPENSATION FLOW

1.1 Subject to conditions 3.1.3 and 3.3 of this drought permit and subject to this drought permit being in force in the relevant period, condition 4.1 of the Licence is substituted with the following:

- (i) Subject to 1.1(ii) below, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow in accordance with Table 1 below from Thruscross Reservoir to the River Washburn at National Grid References SE 15534 57400 and SE 15559 57404 (or such other locations as specified in writing by the Agency).

Table 1.

Period	Compensation flow (cubic metres per day)
1 January to 15 April inclusive	8,450
16 April to 15 May inclusive	4,100
16 May to 15 October inclusive	1,950
16 October to 15 November inclusive	4,100
16 November to 31 December inclusive	8,450

- (ii) If group reservoir stocks are below the North Reservoir Drought Control Line as defined in the Water Company's Drought Plan 2022 dated 29 April 2022 ("the 2022 Drought Plan") for a period of four consecutive weeks or longer, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow in accordance with Table 2 below from Thruscross Reservoir to the River Washburn at National Grid References SE 15534 57400 and SE 15559 57404 (or such other locations as specified in writing by the Agency) until group reservoir stocks have increased to and remained at or above the North Reservoir Group Drought Control Line for a period of six consecutive weeks or longer, upon which the Water Company must return to the compensation flows specified in condition 1.1(i).

Table 2.

Period	Compensation flow (cubic metres per day)
1 January to 15 April inclusive	5,580
16 April to 15 May inclusive	2,710
16 May to 15 October inclusive	1,290
16 October to 15 November inclusive	2,710
16 November to 31 December inclusive	5,580

The 'North Reservoir Group Drought Control Line' is shown in Figure 2.1 of the 2022 Drought Plan, marked 'DCL' in the graph for the North Reservoir Group (with the left-hand vertical axis representing in percentage terms the reservoir stocks).

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 2.1 The Water Company shall undertake environmental monitoring as set out in Appendix 1 attached to this drought permit.

3. MITIGATION CONDITIONS

- 3.1.1 If the monitoring identifies signs of environmental impacts, including but not limited to fish in distress, a pollution incident, water quality deterioration, algae blooms or spread of invasive non-native species, the following actions shall be undertaken by the Water Company:

- 3.1.2 (i) upon finding any signs of environmental impacts the Water Company shall as soon as practically possible notify the Agency in writing and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and shall provide details of the signs of distress and the location;

(ii) a remedial course of action to address the signs of environmental impacts shall be formulated by the Water Company (and amended by the Agency as necessary) and implemented as directed in writing by the Agency.

- 3.1.3 If, upon being notified of any signs of environmental impacts in accordance with condition 3.1.2(i), or at its own instigation, the Agency gives written notice that there is a disruption to the ecology, the Water Company shall increase compensation flow from Thruscross Reservoir to the River Washburn at National Grid References SE 15534 57400 and SE 15559 57404 (or such other locations as specified in writing by the Agency) in accordance with Table 3 below, or such lesser quantity as may be agreed in writing by the Agency

Table 3.

Period	Compensation flow (cubic metres per day)
1 January to 15 April inclusive	16,900
16 April to 15 May inclusive	8,200
16 May to 15 October inclusive	3,900
16 October to 15 November inclusive	8,200
16 November to 31 December inclusive	16,900

The Water Company shall commence the stated compensation flows as soon as possible and within 48 hours of receipt of written notification from the Agency.

The Water Company shall not reduce compensation flows back to those specified in condition 1.1 until the Water Company has confirmed in writing that appropriate remedial action has been taken, and the Agency has confirmed in writing that it is satisfied with this.

- 3.2 The changes to the compensation water specified in conditions 1.1, 3.1.3 and 3.3 of this drought permit shall be made in a steady and controlled manner, at a rate so as not to cause any flooding of land, disturbance to water users downstream, any adverse effects on the quality of water in the inland water or any adverse impacts on the ecology of the inland water or dependent ecosystems.

3.3 **Temporary Flow Adjustments**

If, upon being notified by the Agency, or upon discovering through environmental monitoring or other evidence, that an increase in compensation flow is needed to support riverine ecology, as identified in the Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan North Area Appendix A.1, the Water Company shall increase compensation flow at a time, to a rate and for such duration, as specified in writing by the Agency, and release from Thruscross Reservoir to the River Washburn at National Grid References SE 15534 57400 and SE 15559 57404 (or such other locations as agreed in writing by the Agency).

3.4 **Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs)**

The additional monitoring and maintenance activities specified in the (2025) *Combined Sewer Overflows Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan* and/or the (2025) *Wastewater Treatment Works Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan* shall be applied by the Water Company to any CSO or WwTW assets not identified in Appendix A.1 of the same plan but subsequently deemed by the Water Company or the Agency to risk adverse impact to a watercourse while compensations flows are reduced.

4. FURTHER CONDITIONS

- 4.1 Unless the Agency otherwise agrees in writing, this drought permit shall have no effect unless the Water Company has imposed Temporary Use Ban restrictions from the 2022 Drought Plan for the Grid Resource Zone, and such restrictions remain in force.

APPENDIX 1**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SCHEDULE: STANDARD SCHEDULE**

Assessment Type	Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, recording signs of environmental impacts The Water Company shall not make any changes to this monitoring schedule without the Agency's prior written agreement.
Duration of Monitoring	The environmental monitoring surveys shall take place from the first day that the total compensation flow from Thruscross Reservoir to the River Washburn is reduced under this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Agency.
Environmental Impacts	The following are suggested signs of environmental impacts but are not exhaustive. If advice is required, then the Agency can be contacted on 0800 80 70 60. • Fish in distress, for example gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water. • Dead fish. • Concentration of fish in restricted areas/pools which could increase susceptibility to predation. • Inhibition of movement of fish past river structures or other barriers. • Reduced habitat availability for adult and juvenile life stages (including spawning/nursery areas). • Reduced depth of flow over brown trout redds. • Signs of polluting discharges during walkover surveys, problems exacerbated during lower flows and/or reduced dilution. • Algal blooms. • Establishment and/or expansion of invasive non-native species.
Monitoring Method & Standard of Assessment	The Water Company shall measure and record the following information. For all environmental impacts identified: • The location of the site of environmental impacts observed. • A photo or photos should be taken of any signs of environmental distress. • Weather conditions at the time of the observations. • Dissolved oxygen concentration measurements shall be taken and recorded anywhere in the survey area where signs of environmental stress are identified • Ammonium concentration measurements shall be taken and recorded anywhere in the survey area where signs of environmental stress are identified Where relevant to the environmental impact observed: • Approximate number of dead fish. • Any signs of damage or disease. • Approximate number of fish in distress, gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water. • Whether the fish are being stranded in shallow pools. • Depth of water over brown trout redds • Description of structures and stretches of any watercourses that have no flow or significantly reduced flow.

	• Approximate size of the fish affected. • The species affected. • Signs of pollution. • Presence of algal blooms/scums. • Species, location, and extent of invasive non-native species.
Frequency of monitoring	On the day of any flow reductions implemented under conditions 1.1, 3.1.3 or 3.3, the day after and then weekly thereafter until no further flow reductions are made. If no signs of environmental impacts are noted from two consecutive walkover surveys no further walkover surveys are necessary until there are further flow reductions.
Location of Monitoring	• Washburn 1: 500m located within SE 162 563 to SE 168 554
Survey Results	Weekly for the duration of the drought permit, the Water Company shall provide to the Agency in the form of a calendar week report, the following details: i) Monitoring data as required by condition 2.1, The report shall be sent to drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk Note: a calendar week is a period of 7 consecutive days beginning on a Monday.
Responsibility	Unless otherwise discussed and agreed in writing, the Water Company will be responsible for all of the costs associated with this monitoring programme. Health and safety requirements whilst carrying out the surveys are the responsibility of the Water Company.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Note: the following is provided for information only. It does not form part of the drought permit.

REASONS FOR MODIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Mitigation

Condition 3 of this drought permit has been included to mitigate against any environmental impacts that may be caused by or affected by the Water Company reducing compensation flows.

The Agency will take into consideration any other actions the Water Company are taking or plan to take in order to mitigate effects on the environment, such as mitigation actions identified in their 'Drought Plan: Environmental Assessment Report – North Area Reservoirs', September 2025.

Temporary Flow Adjustments

Condition 3.3 allows for compensation flows to be temporarily increased from the quantities specified in condition 1.1 of this drought permit through the range of flows up to those specified in condition 4.1 of the Licence. The 'In Drought Mitigation Options' of Yorkshire Water's Environmental Monitoring Plan identifies these alterations in flows in the context of this drought permit as;

IDMIT_E1 Gradual or temporary adjustments to abstraction or compensation flows to prevent stranding, displacement, or stress in sensitive aquatic species (e.g. fish, macroinvertebrates, white-clawed crayfish).

Monitoring Locations

The Monitoring Location referred to in Appendix 1 is the downstream reach where monitoring is required, in accordance with Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan North Area dated June 2025, respectively termed **IDMON_WSE** Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, recording signs of environmental impacts.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Definition of a day

A day means any period of 24 consecutive hours.

Environmental Monitoring Plan

The conditions and monitoring incorporated in this permit are in addition to the Environmental Monitoring Plan agreed between the Agency and the Water Company.

Temporary Use ban

You must follow your 2022 drought plan and implement a Temporary Use Ban (under sections 76 and 76A – C of the Water Industries Act 1991) before using the powers granted by this permit, unless the Agency agrees that such ban is not necessary due to the circumstances at the time.

Contact Details:

For the purpose of condition 3.1.2, the Water Company shall notify the Agency via email to: drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and make reference to that fact that this is in regard to the 'Thruscross Reservoir Drought Permit.'

For the purpose of condition 3.3, the Water Company shall, prior to making any increase in compensation flows, first seek agreement of the Agency via email to: drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and make reference to that fact that this is in regard to the 'Thruscross Reservoir Drought Permit.'